

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 /059 W

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O R 041359Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5823

INF AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1400

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS US

SUBJECT: LIKUD PLANS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRELI WITHDRAWALS

SUMMARY: LIKUD OPPOSITION HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR CAMPAIGN
FO DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS AGAINST US MIDEAST POLICY
AND AGINAST POSSIBLE GOI AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAWALS IN SINAI
IN CONTEXT OF SECOND-STAGE GOE-GOI AGREEMENT. LIKUD PLANS
ARE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH PERIDO FO SECRETARY'S STAY IN
ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MAARIVE MARCH 4 REPORTS THAT LIKUD EXECUTIVE DECIDED
YESTERDAY EVENING TO CONDUCT MAJOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST SINAI
WITHDRAWALS DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. MAIN EVENT PRESENTLY
SCHEDULED IS MASS RALLY TO BE HODL IN TEL AVIV'S CITY HALL
SQUARE ON EVENING OF MRCH 8. THEME WILL BE OPPOSITION
TO ANY SINAI WITHDRAWAL NOT CONNECTED TO ATTAINMENT OF
"TRUE PEACE", I.E., A FORMAL PEACE AGREEMENT. LIKUD LEADER
BEGIN REPORTEDLY TOLD EXECUTIVE THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM
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PASSES ANDOILFIELDS COULD CREATE VERY SERIOUS SITUATION

FOR ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES. FREE CENTER LEADER SHMUEL TAMIR ALSO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED PLANS FOR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST US MIDEAST POLICY"--KISSINGER STYLE WITHDRAWAL", BUT ADDED THAT LIKUD SHOULD STRESS POSITIVE APPROACH BY DECLARING EXPLICITLY ITS READINESS TO CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT LEADING TO SINAI TERRITORIAL COMPROMISES IF THEY LEAD TO "TRUE PEACE".

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT ARIK SHARON, (EX-GENERAL, EX-LIKUD, MK), MET MARCH 2 WITH GROUP THAT HAD ATTEMPTED TO SETTLE AT MAALE ADUMIM EARLIER THAT DAY, AND URGED THAT SETTLEMENTS BE ESTABLISHED "EVERY DAY" DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT IN ORDER TO FORTIFY ISRAELI CLAIM TO OCCUPIED TERRITORY. SHARON REPORTEDLY ALSO CALLED FOR DISRUPTIONS DURING VISIT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT PM RABIN" DOES NOT HAVE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE IN HIS POLICY OF WITHDRAWAL FROM JUDEA AND SAMARIA". SHARON HAS REPORTEDLY CANCELLED SCHEDULED VISIT TO LONDON THIS WEEKEND PRESUMABLY TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN ANTI-WITHDRAWAL ACTIVITIES.

3. IN SEPARATE BUT RELATED ITEM, JERUSALEM POST MARCH 4 REPORTS THAT LIKUD FACTOR PLANS TO HAND OVER THE SPEAKER OF KNESSET ON MARCH 10 PETITION WHICH IT HAS BEEN CIRCULATING IN RECENT MONTHS OPPOSING RETURN OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA TO FOREIGN RULE. LIKUD CLAIMS THAT PETITION NOW HAS OVER 618,000 SIGNATURES, WHICH IT POINTS OUT REPRESENTS 44 PER CENT OF THE JEWISH VOTE CAST IN LAST KNESSET ELECTION. ACCORDING TO POST STORY, PETITION HAS BEEN IN HAND FOR SOME TIME BUT LIKUD HAS DECIDED TO MAKE PRESENTATION TO KNESSET WHILE SECRETARY IS IN AREA. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

4. COMMENT: LIKUD ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE CLEAR SIGNAL THAT OPPOSITION INTENDS TO EXERCISE PRESSURE AGAINST ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. THIS CAMPAIGN IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND EVEN PICK UP STEAM DURING SECRETARY'S STAY IN AREA, AND MAY TAKE VARIED FORMS RANGING FROM KNESSET DEBATES, TV APPEARANCES AND NEWSPAPER ADS TO STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. POSSIBILITY OF SINAI WITHDRAWALS COULD EVOKE EVEN STRONGER CONFIDENTIAL

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OPPOSITION FROM RIGHTWING FORCES THAN DID DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. THIS OPPOSITION FOCUSES NOT ONLY ON INTRINSIC OBJECTION TO CONCESSIONS TO EGYPT IN THE ABSENCE OF DEFINITIVE PEACE AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO CONCERN THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF SECOND-STAGE AGREEMENT COULD SET STAGE FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS ON GOLAN OR EVEN WEST BANK.

5. ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS
AND WILL, OF COURSE, BE WATCHING THEM CLOSELY WITH A VIEW
TO ANY IMPACT THEY MIGHT HAVE ON SECRETARY'S VISIT.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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